



NEWS RELEASE

NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA) – 1300 MILITARY ROAD – LINCOLN, NE 68508-1090

Aug. 4, 2012, 2 p.m. CDT

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Overview

Containment of fires in the Keith County Complex is estimated at 50 percent with nearly 25 volunteer fire departments working together. NEMA's Mobile Operation Center is in Keith County to support Keith County Emergency Management. Two Nebraska National Guard UH60 Black Hawks are on site for aviation suppression efforts.

Highlights

Otter Creek Fire is 100 percent contained with structure protection of the Ainsle Ranch completed.

McKeag Fire has been fully extinguished.

Eagle Canyon Hideaway Fire is 75-80 percent contained. Rough terrain areas are preventing full containment. Fire crews did ground work (clearing/cutting down trees).

Ackley Fire is 100 percent contained. Heavy equipment owned by Keith County was used to aid in the containment of this fire.

Glen Echo Fire is 90 percent contained. Rough terrain areas are also preventing full containment of this fire. Two National Guard UH-60 Black Hawks provided air support for fire suppression.

Weather

Winds across Keith County should stay out of the southwest and remain below 25 MPH through the afternoon. A strong cold front is expected tonight with cooler temperatures, but strong north to northwest winds. A chance for thunderstorms exists for late this afternoon. Storms are expected to be scattered with no widespread rainfall expected. Locations under a main storm could get some brief heavy rains. Frequent lightening and dry conditions could mean further chances for lightning start fires this evening. The National Weather Service provided the following weather update:

SKY/WEATHER	MOSTLY SUNNY.
MAX TEMPERATURE	AROUND 98.
MIN HUMIDITY	18 PERCENT.
EYE LEVEL WINDS	SOUTHWEST AT 10 TO 15 MPH.
WIND (20 FT)	SOUTHWEST 10 TO 20 MPH.
SMOKE DISPERSAL	POOR INCREASING TO EXCELLENT.

Strategies

- The two National Guard UH-60s will work Eagle Canyon Hideaway Fire and Glen Echo Fire

Road Closures

None reported at this time.

Evacuations:

No evacuations are in place at this time.

Fire stats at a glance:

Start Date: Aug 2, 2012

Containment: 50 percent

Cause: Lightning

Acreage: 50,000 plus

Cooperating volunteer fire departments: Keystone –
Leymone, Ogallala, Oshkosh, Venago, Madrid, Imperial,

Chappel, Gering, Scottsbluff, Brule, Larmar, Paxton,
Hershey, Sutherland, Julesburg , Big Springs, Grant,
Broken Bow, Red Willow Rural, Waunita, Curtis, Tryon ,
Stapleton , Elsie, Arnold

Cooperating agencies: Keith County, Keith County
Emergency Management, Keith County Roads

Department, Hayes County, Nebraska Emergency
Management Agency, Nebraska National Guard,

Nebraska State Fire Marshal's Office, Nebraska
Department of Roads
Aviation: Two National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk

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